

**COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

**May 17, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

In-Person

Lincoln Community Foundation  
215 Centennial Mall South, Ste. 100  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

*Commission Vice-Chair Lali Sage called the quarterly meeting to order at 9:24 AM*

**II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Commission Vice-Chair Lali Sage welcomed everyone to the meeting and announces that due to Chair Maria Whitmore's absence she would be filling in as Chair for the day. The Commissioners went around the table introducing themselves followed by the staff present, Executive Director Maria Arriaga was absent. Lincoln City Council member Bennie Shobe was in attendance and took time to introduce himself.

**III. ROLL CALL/RECORD ABSENTEES**

Present: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht  
Absent: Chair Maria Whitmore

***Motion 1** to approve Chair Whitmore's absence and the roll call was made by Vice-chair Lali Sage. Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lincoln City Council member Bennie Shobe introduced himself.

## **v. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING**

The Commission on Latino-Americans will host its Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2025. The meeting will take place at *Lincoln Community Foundation*, 215 Centennial Mall South, Ste. 100, Lincoln, NE 68508. We will begin at 9 a.m. and adjourn at no later than 2 p.m.

The Quarterly Meeting is open to the public and all interested individuals are invited to attend. Time will be allocated for public comments within the first hour of the meeting. We encourage those wishing to speak to call our office ahead of time, in an effort to provide better accommodation.

The agenda for the Quarterly Meeting will be kept current and made available for public inspection at the Commission's office. For further information, please contact us at (402) 471-2791.

Public Notice of this meeting was placed in Mundo Latino Publications on May 2, 2025; The Grand Island Independent, Kearney Hub, Lexington Clipper, The North Platte Telegraph, The Columbus Telegram, The Lincoln Journal Star, Scottsbluff Star-Herald, Omaha World-Herald, Hastings Tribune on May 3, 2025 and it was e-mailed to the NCLA mail list and posted in Social Media channels.

## **v. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Motion 2** to approve the agenda was presented by Commissioner Aida Evans.  
Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

## **vi. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Motion 3** to approve the minutes of the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, quarterly meeting was made by Commissioner Aida Evans.  
Seconded by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

### **viii. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1) Nebraska Latino Youth Summit planning update.

Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala presented three separate options for the 2025 NELYS graphic design. The Commissioners took time to review the options presented and after brief discussion they selected the third option which included the tagline “Strong Heritage, Stronger Minds”

***Motion 4** to approve the theme and graphic design for the 2025 NELYS was presented by Vice-Chair Lali Sage.      Seconded by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

### **ix. NEW BUSINESS**

1) Lincua Academy Support for Students Scholarships

Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala informed the Commissioners on an opportunity to provide scholarships for the Lincua Academy translator program. After brief discussion the Commissioners came to the agreement that more information is needed before a decision is made. They agreed to hold off on a motion until the next quarterly meeting when they could be given more information on this opportunity.

2) Raices de mi Pueblo, Sponsorship

Commissioner Aida Evans reintroduced the sponsorship request made by Raices de mi Pueblo. The organization requested a sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500. Commissioner Aida Evans worked with the organization closely to ensure that the form was submitted with the proper documentation in order to avoid the issue from the previous quarterly meeting. After a discussion about if our budget would allow this sponsorship, the Commissioners moved to approve the sponsorship.

***Motion 5** to approve the sponsorship request in the amount of \$1,500 was made by*

*Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins. Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None. Motion passed.*

### 3) Website update/History Archive Listing Development

Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala presented the creation of a Commission archive page that would be added to the Commissions current website. He explained that during the office move several old VHS tapes and cassettes were discovered. Rather than waste these pieces of the Commissions history Executive Director Maria Arriaga would like to digitize these items and feature them on the website. After discussion the Commissioners moved to approve the creation of the website archive.

*Motion 6 to approve the creation of the website archive was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins. Seconded by Vice-Chair Lali Sage.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None. Motion passed.*

### 4) UnidosUs Conference travel/attendance for 7 members of the Commission

Ricardo Alcala asked the Commissioners to approve the list of Commission members which will attend the 2025 Unidos conference. He explained that the tickets had already been purchased and all that was left was the approval of attendees. After a brief discussion the Commissioners selected Ricardo Alcala, Maria Arriaga, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.

*Motion 7 to approve the attendance of the seven selected members was presented by commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins. Seconded by commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None. Motion passed.*

- 5) UnidosUs Conference /Scholarship for 4 members from Community in Motion group from Crete

In addition to the 7 members of the Commission selected to attend the 2025 Unidos conference 4 students from Community in motion will be offered the opportunity to attend alongside the commission.

***Motion 8 to approve the scholarships of 4 community in motion students for the 2025 Unidos conference was made by Vice-Chair Lali Sage.  
Seconded by Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins.***

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

- 6) Las Mañanitas /Viva North Platte Sponsorship

Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins took time to explain what the Viva North Platte event is as well as the types of activities that will take place during the celebration. The Commissioners discussed the event briefly and moved to approve the sponsorship.

***Motion 9 to approve the sponsorship of the Viva North Platte event in the amount of \$1,500 was presented by Vice-Chair Lali Sage.  
Seconded by Commissioner Aida Evans.***

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Abstain: Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

- 7) Madison Community Group support request for Four of July event

Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez explains how the Madison Latino community approached her about making a float to represent their community at the Fourth of July event. She clarified that this will be the second year that they create this float however due to a rise in prices she has submitted a request for funds. After a brief discussion the commissioners noticed the lack of a fiscal agent on the application submitted by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez. Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins

offered to add her organization as the fiscal agent for her request. The Commissioners agreed to this proposition and moved to approve the request.

***Motion 10*** to approve the support for the Fourth of July event in Madison was presented by Vice-chair Lali Sage.      *Seconded by Commissioner Sandra Lopez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Abstain: Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

## **x. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

*The Commissioners took a brief pause to review the financial reports*

- 1) Review of Budget Status Reports for February, March, April
- 2) Review of General Ledger Reports for February, March, April

***Motion 11*** to approve the financial reports was presented by Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins.      *Seconded by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None.      **Motion passed.***

## **xi. DIRECTOR REPORT**

Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala read a pre-written report that was created by Executive Director Maria Arriaga prior to her absence. The report covered the efforts Executive Director Maria Arriaga had taken over the course of the previous months to fulfill the mission of the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans.

***Motion 12*** to approve the director's report was presented by Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez.      *Seconded by Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote yes: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Vice-Chair Lali Sage, Secretary Jaime Suarez, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins, Commissioner Marilyn Schacht.*

*Vote no: None. Motion passed.*

## **xii. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*No Executive Session was held.*

## **xiii. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Aida Evans: Commissioner Aida Evans reported that she has been continuing her work with Catholic Social Services food pantry, as well as assisting families in the courts.

Sandra Lopez: Commissioner Sandra Lopez attended the planting seeds conference where she was able to learn how to better help rural community members. In addition, she has been fulfilling her regular duties at Catholic Charities, she noted that due to a grant that they received from the Bank of America they have had to send out surveys that ask for people to report their status. She added however that these surveys were entirely optional and not mandatory.

Adi Nancy-Dobbins: Commissioner Adi Nancy-Dobbins has been working with the city of North Platte to renovate the northern side of town. She shared that the current plan for the space is to fill it with public spaces where the community can congregate with one another. Some of the spaces she shared were a hydroponics greenhouse which will be open to the public, with a community center to follow in 2026 and potentially a business incubator to provide entrepreneurs a space to launch their businesses.

Jaime Suarez: Commissioner Jaime Suarez has been working with One World to maintain the organizations presence in Omaha, as part of this work he has assisted in the building of a new headquarters in South Omaha to keep it local to the community.

Leticia Rodriguez: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez has been organizing the fourth of July event in Madison. She has also been assisting community members with prescription prices by helping them find coupons and ways to acquire their medications for cheaper. She added that she has been helping a grieving mother plan a funeral for her recently deceased child.

Marilyn Schacht: Commissioner Marilyn Schacht has been working with the Mexican Consulate in Omaha to better help her community. She has also continued her work on streamlining the licensing process for immigrants, towards this goal she and ED Arriaga met with the director of the Nebraska DMV.

Lali Sage: Vice-chair Lali Sage assisted in the creation of the new commercial for the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans. She also provided a report on the department of labor to provide the commissioners on some initiatives that the department has undertaken.

**xiv. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Omaha, NE

**xv. ADJOURN**

*Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM*

**Secretary: Commissioner Jaime Suarez**  
**Transcribed by: Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala**